

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claim 1 without introducing any new matter; and cancels Claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1-2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Rossi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0099920). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Rossi et al. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Rossi et al. in view of Nakamura et al. (Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 05-172635). Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Rossi et al. in view of Parrish et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,028,309). Claims 11-20 were allowed and Claim 5 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, independent Claim 1 is amended to recite all the features of allowable, dependent Claim 5, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance. Consequently, dependent Claim 5 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

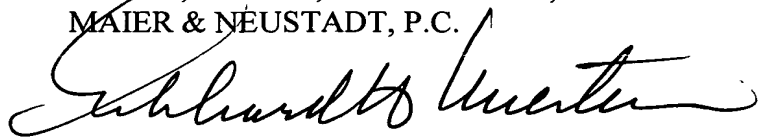
In view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-4 and 6-20 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/753,386
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2006

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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